

Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

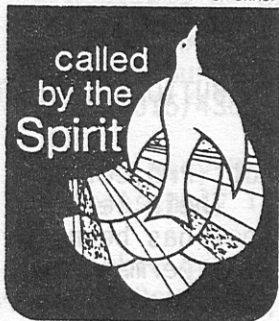
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 40

July 1987

NUMBER 4

We are the United Church of Christ



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST SIXTEENTH GENERAL SYNOD

Cleveland Convention Center
Cleveland, Ohio

June 25-30, 1987

Our elected delegates were Roy Bain, Lenda Sherrill, (with Dorothea Bowling taking Lenda's place on the 25th & 26th), and Virginia McCamey replacing Ginny Schaeffer who was unable to attend. Conference Minister, Emmett O. Floyd; Moderator, James Myers, and Dick Woodward, who was elected to the Executive Council, made up our delegation.

Worship Services provided the high points, as we began each day in worship, and concluded in the evenings after long days filled with business. Sunday morning, we gathered in the Public Square for a program celebrating our history - the 30th birthday of the U.C.C. in that very place. From there we processed (in the thousands) for worship in the Civic center. There were too many reports, votes taken, and speeches made to list, but some highlights were.....

- An overwhelming majority voted to make the Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society a new instrumentality. As the Nebraska delegation promised its support, the delegates rose in a standing ovation.
- New location of U.C.C. National Headquarters not settled.
- Priorities: Spiritual Renewal; Peace and Justice; Youth and Young Adults; and the Homeless Poor.
- Dr. Walter Bruggemann spoke on "Rural and Urban Crisis". Later, GS voted to reaffirm the actions of GS 15 in regard to the farm crisis.
- Two women spoke, both mothers and members of COMADRES, which was founded to help those whose family members have disappeared in Central America. As they spoke, the body rose in solidarity, and remained standing through the entire speech.
- Another moving event was the walk-out of the Hispanic members of the U.C.C. to protest the lack of attention to minorities in program and structure. There were tears and rejoicing as they returned later after conferring with Dr. Post and other leaders.
- Other outstanding events were the special dinners I attended: Office for Church in Society, with the program "Celebrating 30 Years of Social Action"; U.C.C. Historical Council, "U.C.C. 30th Anniversary"; United Church Board for World Ministries' International Dinner; Coordinating Center for Women "Antoinette Brown Award Winners and Celebrated Laywomen" (at which, along with over 50 other laywomen, Annie Ruth Hill, Shirley Higgins and I each received recognition with a pen and a certificate).

Reported by Virginia McCamey

N-E-W-S and N-O-T-E-S

CIRCULAR CHURCH IN CHARLESTON WELCOMES THE KELLERS HOME FROM ENGLAND

Having spent the past year in England, Bert and Lucille Keller and their family have returned to their home in Charleston. They were welcomed with a special coffee hour on Sunday, July 12th. We add our own "Welcome Home, Kellers!" to that of all their friends at Circular.

THANKS TO DAVID BLACKSHEAR - INTERIM PASTOR at Circular during the year the Kellers were in England. Rev. Blackshear will continue to be available for occasional duties and will still be a part of the Circular family. Bert Keller and the Circular congregation expressed their gratitude to David for all that he has done for Circular Church during the last year.

NEW MINISTER CALLED

FIRST EVANGELICAL & REFORMED CHURCH, U.C.C. in Nashville, has called a new minister. On Sunday, June 7, Rev. Robert J. Kurtz accepted the call as their pastor. Rev. Kurtz and his wife, Pat, will move to Nashville July 27, and his first service will be on August 2. They have two daughters, Kim and Beth. We extend our best wishes and our prayers to Rev. Kurtz and to the church for a long and fruitful ministry.

DR. DAVID GREENHAW will continue as Interim Minister until Rev. Kurtz begins his duties. First Church, and the S.E. Conference are grateful for the time, interest and service that David has given.

FREYS RETURN TO UNITED STATES

After serving for three years as missionaries for Habitat for Humanity and as UCC missionaries in Zaire, Africa, Mark and Margee Frey returned to the U.S. on June 20th. Mark will begin studies at the Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis in the fall. Their mailing address is: C/O Robert Frey, 5186 Atherton N. Dr., Indianapolis, IN 46219. WE JOIN WITH THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IN BELVIDERE, TN, to say "Welcome home, Mark and Margee!" Thank you for your years of service and hard work!

CHURCH AND MINISTRY COMMISSION

REV. JOHN R. LACKEY, CHAIRPERSON, reports that REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL AID FOR SEMINARIANS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED SOON.

The Southeast Conference has a Scholarship Fund for assisting seminarians who are "in care" in an Association of the S.E.C.. The deadline for submitting requests for aid for the 1987-88 academic year, is November 30, 1987. Request forms may be obtained from the office of the Conference Minister.

MORGAN-SCOTT PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS URGENTLY NEEDED

ONCE AGAIN, the Morgan-Scott Project must move to another location. Their lease of the former Burreville School has been terminated. In order to have a permanent location, the Project has purchased 6.6 acres near Deer Lodge, TN. Construction began in June on a block building which will contain offices, storage, a thrift shop, and housing for work groups and long-term volunteers. The cost (with much volunteer labor) will be about \$35,000.00.

This is an ecumenically supported project which helps to provide emergency food supplies, a bread distribution program, fuel, clothing, transportation, garden supplies, house repairs, etc., in two of the poorest counties in the U.S.. Contributions are urgently needed. Mail your gifts to: The Morgan-Scott Project, P.O. Box 800, Sunbright, TN 37872, marked "Building Fund".

....John R. Lackey, Chair

Morgan-Scott Project Resource Advisory Bd.

THE UNITED CHURCH OF HUNTSVILLE is pleased TO ANNOUNCE THAT Rev. H. Eugene Keen was named Pastor Emeritus at a special congregational meeting on May 31, 1987.

William Green, Chair of the Diaconate, made the motion which was in appreciation for his years of service to the United Church of Huntsville.....and granting all the benefits and privileges of such honorary title. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

We congratulate the United Church of Huntsville and Rev. Eugene Keen and wish them continued blessings in their ministry.

NEWS FROM THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION
JULY 1987

At our last Commission meeting, it was decided to have a newsletter to keep you in touch with what was going on in our S.E. Conference; i.e., sources for programs; events such as retreats; issues facing women; all the better to understand each other. Would you like to help choose a name for this newsletter? Send your suggestions to any of the Commission members listed below:

Dorothea B. Bowling, Chair
Rt. 2, Box 786
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
(h) 615/436-3208

Don Klinefelter - ALA/TENN
207 Dawn Street
Signal Mountain, TN 37377
(h) 615/886-4103 (w) 615/755-4335

Rev. Mary Bruggeman, Vice Chair
(presently in England)

Clara Lowe - GA/SC
1894 Penelope Road
Atlanta, GA 30314
(h) 404/794-7294

Jackie Coleman - GA/SC, 1988
548 Boulevard, N.E., Apt. #301
Atlanta, GA 30308
(h & w) 404/874-8762

Challis Rhodes - Central ALA, 1989
Rt. 1,
Tallassee, AL 06023
(h) 205/283-4883 (w) 205/283-4574

Ruth Crook - S. ALA, 1988
Rt. 1, Box 212
Headland, AL 36345
(h) 205/693-2253

Rosemary Watkins
1310 Poplarcrest Cir.
Atlanta, GA 30376
(h) 404/627-0095 (w) 404/526-7378

Lois Harry - E. ALA, 1989
Drawer M
Lanett, AL 36863
(h) 205/644-1602

Note: ALA/TN is to elect 2 more representatives at their next meeting.

Dr. Emmett O. Floyd, Staff Person
S.E. Conference
P. O. Box 29883
Atlanta, GA 30359
(w) 404/633-5655

My deepest thanks and appreciation to the Women's Commission and the Women's Mite Scholarship Program for helping to provide funds that enabled me to attend General Synod in June. It was a very rewarding experience. C.C.W. proposal passed with flying colors, and we now have an instrumentality for women's work established in our national office. The only thing remaining is for the action of Synod to be ratified by a majority of all the Conferences. Our South east Conference Board of Directors is already on record as having approved this action.

I hope to be able to share more about Synod in the future. If you would like me to come, I would be willing to travel to the few churches around the part of Tennessee where I live. I am going to Lanett, ALA in August to share this experience.

Dorothea B. Bowling
Women's Commission Chair

WOMEN'S MITE (MIGHT) SCHOLARSHIP FUND CONTINUES TO GROW.....It is exciting to see how many of our women have responded. (Men, it's ok for you, also to support our work!)

Many, many thanks to all of you who have sent in contributions. Remember, we need the money by September 1, in order to provide scholarships for the October Retreat. A nickel a day adds up to \$18.25 for the year. Please talk to the women in your church who have never attended a retreat and extend them an invitation to attend and a hearty welcome to participate. Child care will be offered for children under 18 months.

WOMEN'S MITE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donated previous year.....	\$1,004.39
Twelve (12) scholarships awarded.....	353.00

Donated this year, to date.....	480.65
(including 9 individuals and 7 churches)	

Borrowed from fund to put down-payment on retreat facilities for 1988, and to be repaid from registration fees.....	100.00
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Payment to Dorothea Bowling for Synod (authorized by Commission).....	344.25
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Balance on hand to date.....	\$ 687.79
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Chairperson for Women's Mite is Dr. Erna Bryant.

WOMEN'S WORK WEEK AT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, AMERICUS, GEORGIA, Nov. 4-10

A new opportunity for service to others is available for the first time. Fifteen women will be able to gather to work at anything that needs to be done that week, or a part of that week. No special skills are needed; just a willing heart and capable hands. For more information, contact JACKIE COLEMAN, 548 Boulevard, N.E., Apt. #301, Atlanta, GA 30308. 404/874-8762. Registration is \$3.00. Only costs involved are the cost of your food and transportation to Americus.

SOUTHERN REGIONAL MEETING

October 9-11, 1987

MONTEAGLE, TENNESSEE

HEART TO HEART: CREATING ANEW

Registration forms available from the Conference Office, or from Ginny Mccamey, (404/455-7533). Remember, child care will be available. Use the Women's Mite Scholarship Program to help more of your women participate in this mountaintop experience.

DOROTHEA B. BOWLING,
Women's Commission Newsletter Editor

CONFERENCE CORNER

The United Church Board for Homeland Ministries Board of Directors has voted to establish a UCBHM Minority Fellowship Program which will officially begin in 1988.

From the office of Dr. Shelby Rooks, comes the following information:

\$100,000 per year has been budgeted for the five-year period beginning Jan. 1, 1988. Some support may be provided for students enrolled in the Fall Semester, 1987.

Fellowships will be offered to persons attending theological schools in the United States who intend to become ordained ministers in the United Church of Christ. Applications MUST BE ON FORMS PROVIDED BY THE UCBHM. To obtain an application, write to The Rev. Barbara J. Essex, United Church Board for Homeland Ministries, 132 West 31st Street, New York, New York 10001.

PURPOSE: To help provide seminary education for persons described as minorities in the U.S. Census, who intend to become ordained ministers, and desire to be or are enrolled at a member school of the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada. These fellowships are limited to those persons who will commit to serve as ministers of the United Church of Christ. Preference will be given to those who intend to become pastors or teachers in local churches.

WHO MAY APPLY? Any member of a UCC local church who is either a senior in college, and has been accepted in an accredited seminary, or already enrolled in an accredited seminary. They must also be citizens of the United States or show proof of having taken actual steps toward becoming citizens or permanent residents. Evidence will be required to show that applicants are full-time students.

DEADLINE: Applications must be received in the New York office not later than August 15 of each year. Announcements of fellowships will be made each year on September 1st.

Grants will be made in the amount of \$5,000.00 each.

Dr. Rooks says: "We believe this is a significant step forward in the expansion of our united Church of Christ membership hopes."

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

"Thankful for Your Partnership" -
Phillippians 1:5.

The twenty-first Annual Meeting began Thursday, June 11, with our delegate assembly led by Rev. Joyce Myers.

Worksheets were distributed to the participants to help people remember significant details of the meeting. Ask your local delegate to report to your church the events of the Annual Meeting.

Rev. Dr. Shelby Rooks, Executive Vice President of the UCBHM, gave the keynote address entitled "Partnership in God's Mission." His message inspired many, and led to a time allowing for questions and answers which related to our local churches, and our partnership with the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries.

During our business session, a report was given by the Area Wide Mission Strategy Task Force. Time was allowed for feedback by everyone. The Task Force has compiled the feelings of the delegates and will now go back a second time to the Associations for additional input into the process of restructure of the conference. Each person and every local church is invited to help work on the future of this Conference.

The youth participated in the Conference as well as having separate times for Bible study, activities and community building. A wide range of workshops were offered twice to all delegates: Small Membership Churches; Christian Education; Spiritual Renewal; Bible Study; and U.C.C. as a Just Peace Church.

A celebration in honor of Conference Minister, Rev. Dr. Emmett O. Floyd, was held on Friday night. The Southeast Conference celebrated his ministry, and thanked him for his years of service as his tenure comes to an end December, 1987.

Worship services have been special the last three years, with the Conference choir being led by Rev. Helen Pearson. Colorful banners were hung by local churches, and representatives brought bread for communion and gifts of ribbon and wood to present for offerings.

A special thanks to the planning committee who made this Annual Meeting a success. If anyone in your church is interested in helping to plan the 1988 Annual Meeting, please submit his or her name to the Conference!

...Rev. Sandye Mullins

OBITUARIES

Eva A. Peterson, "Miss Petey", long-time member of Pleasant Hill Community Church, died on May 14, 1987, in the Wharton Nursing Home. A Memorial Service was held on May 17th. "Miss Petey", together with Rev. Victor Marriott, wrote the history of the first seventy-five years of the Pleasant Hill Community Church, "A Brief History of the Pleasant Hill Community Church, 1885-1960". This book is now a part of that church's centennial history. Our sympathy is extended to the family and many friends of "Miss Petey".

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Dr. Eugene M. Bushong, born November 8, 1902; died June 2, 1987. Dr. Bushong had served many churches in the United Church of Christ, and held many offices in other conferences as well as in the National Council of Churches and on the United Church Board for Homeland Ministries. He had lived in Uplands since his retirement in 1967, and was very active in the Pleasant Hill Community Church. We extend our sympathy to his widow, Mary Alice Evans Bushong; to his four children, 15 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren as well as to his many friends in the Uplands community.

CURT'S NUGGETS

A Christian can never delegate his privileges and responsibilities to someone else.

Curt Schumacher

SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

P. O. BOX 29883
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30359

ALA-TENN FAMILY CAMP SLATED

ALA-TENN's first Family Camp - "A Family of Families" August 7-9, at Camp Thunder Canyon, in Ider, Alabama. A weekend of camping, study, recreation, fellowship, and worship. Singles welcome! Meal preparation and child care will be shared. Housing and registration costs \$20.00. For more information, contact David Loar, ALA-TENN COORDINATOR, Crossville, Tennessee.

HELP AND CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED FOR ELON HOME IN N.C.

"Hook's House", started by a minister but never completed, was willed to Elon Home upon the death of the minister. It is for use by "house parents" when they are off duty. \$4,988.50 is needed to complete the house. Make checks payable to: Caravan Campers (for: Elon Home Project), and mail all donations to Mr. Mark Ward, 613 Juniper St., LaGrange, GA 30240. Tel. 404/882-0804....or contact Mr. Leon Lee, Project Director, 6312 19th Ave., Valley, AL 36854..... (205)756-3350.

STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

TRUDY BRAUN announces that Rev. Milton E. Gockley, Jr., Coordinator of Financial Planning and Development of the UCC Stewardship Council, will conduct a Stewardship Workshop in the Atlanta area - probably at Trinity Church in Jonesboro), on Sept. 12. Rev. Gockley will hold a second Workshop in the ALA-TENN ASSOCIATION on October 31st. Location will be announced later.

RECYCLE ALUMINUM CANS AND GLASS

David Menchoffer, a member of Atlanta U.C.C., suggests saving aluminum cans and clean glass as a way to raise money for the Church Builders Club. He says Owens-Illinois Glass Co. will come to your parish and pick up the glass. Glass must be sorted in three groups: clear; green; and brown.

Youth groups might also raise money in this way.

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